

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11533

USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT UR

SUBJECT: ECPC LAUED BY AUTHORITATIVE SOVIET TV PROGRAM

REF: MOSCOW 11126

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1. SUMMARY. SOVIET TELEVISION VIEWERS WERE GIVEN AN UPBEAT ACCOUNT OF THE ECPC BY FIRST DEPUTY OF THE CC'S FOREIGN DEPARTMENT VADIM ZAGLADIN AND THE CC'S "CHIEF CONSULTANT" FOR ECPC NIKOLAY SHISHLIN (BOTH OF WHOM WERE MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO BERLIN) DURING PRIME TIME JULY 20. THE VEHICLE WAS THE PROGRAM "NINTH STUDIO", HOSTED BY TV COMMENTATOR AND USA INSTITUTE MEMBER VALENTYN ZORIN. THE DISCUSSION, OBVIOUSLY WELL REHEARSED, EMPHASIZED THE OVERALL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BERLIN GATHERING, THE IMPORTANCE OF BREZHNEV'S SPEECH, AND THE "UNFOUNDED" APPROACH OF WESTERN NEWS MEDIA TO THE ECPC. THE PROGRAM'S PURPOSE SEEMED TO BE TO COUNTER DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF THE ECPC'S OUTCOME. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL SIGNIFICANCE. ASKED TO OUTLINE THE BASIC IMPORTANCE OF THE ECPC, ZAGLADIN STRESSED THREE POINTS:

-- THE MEETING ADOPTED AN ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SHOWED WHO WAS FOR RELAXATION OF TENSION AND WHO WAS NOT, AND SHOWED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DETENTE AND CLASS STRUGGLE;

--THE DOCUMENT CLEARLY SPELLED OUT A PROGRAM OF STRUGGLE IN EUROPE, AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS OF THE PARTICIPATING PARTIES INDICATED THAT EACH ASSOCIATED ITSELF WITH THIS PROGRAM; AND

--THE MEETING MARKED A SIGNIFICANT STAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE "COMMUNIST MOVEMENT": IT WAS THE LARGEST EVER GATHERING OF EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS, AND WAS CHARACTERIZED BY UNANIMITY.

3. BREZHNEV'S SPEECH. SHISHLIN SAID THE SPEECH "SOBERLY AND CLEARLY" SET FORTH THE BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AS WELL AS THE LINE OF CPSU AND SOVIET GOVERNMENT: THE SPEECH WAS "VERY STRONG" ON INTERNATIONALISM (SHISHLIN DID NOT MENTION THE PHRASE "PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM"), AND WAS SIGNIFICANT FOR ITS DISCUSSION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEORY (I.E.,
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NEW PROPOSITIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED JOINTLY PRIOR TO THEIR IMPLEMENTATION). ZAGLADIN ADDED THAT IN CORRIDOR TALK IMMEDIATELY AFTER BREZHNEV'S ADDRESS THE PHRASE OFTEN HEARD DESCRIBING HIS SPEECH WAS "QUIET WISDOM", AND THAT THE LEADER OF THE SWISS CP DELEGATION ACCURATELY NOTED THAT THE SPEECH TOUCHED UPON ALL PROBLEMS SO THAT EVERYONE COULD DRAW APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS WITHOUT TAKING OFFENSE.

4. "BOURGEOIS" PRESS COMMENT. ZAGLADIN LED OFF BY CITING WESTERN COMMENTARY TO THE EFFECT THAT IN ORDER TO HAVE A MEETING THE CPSU WAS FORCED TO COMPROMISE ITS PRINCIPLES. NONSENSE, SAID ZAGLADIN; ONE NEEDS ONLY TO READ THE DOCUMENT TO SEE THAT OUR PRINCIPLES WERE INCLUDED. OF COURSE THERE WERE COMPROMISES; ALL PARTICIPANTS TRIED TO FIND COMMON GROUND, AS IS ALWAYS THE CASE AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS; BUT NO ONE LOST, AND THERE WERE MANY WINNERS. SHISHLIN ADDED THAT SOME BOURGEOIS COMMENTATORS TRIED TO "PROVE" THAT THE ECPC WAS A FAILURE FOR THE CPSU BY CLAIMING, FALSELY, THAT THE CPSU WENT INTO THE GATHERING HOPING TO EXCOMMUNICATE THE PRC, CREATE A RULING CENTER, AND CONFIRM THE CPSU'S EXPERIENCE AS OBLIGATORY FOR ALL.

5. DIGS AT WEST AND AT CHINA. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, ZAGLADIN NOTED THAT ATTEMPTS BY "OUR WESTERN PARTNERS" TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF ITALY, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN DEMONSTRATED THE EMPTINESS OF WESTERN CLAIMS ABOUT RESPECT FOR DEMOCRACY. IN ANOTHER CONTEXT, SHISHLIN CLAIMED THE WEST WAS HOLDING BACK IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT REGARDING DISARMAMENT, ECONOMIC COOPERATION (THE WEST "HAD BEEN SILENT" ON SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR EUROPEAN MEETINGS ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT, AND A CEMA PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPE HAD NOT BEEN ANSWERED), AND "BASKET THREE" PRINCIPLES. ON CHINA, ZORIN COMMENTED THAT PRC NEWS MEDIA HAD BEEN STRANGELY SILENT ABOUT THE ECPC, AND SHISHLIN ADDED THIS WAS TYPICAL OF THE CPC--WHICH THE CPSU WAS NOT TRYING TO ISOLATE BUT TO BRING BACK INTO THE "COMMUNIST FAMILY".

6. ON OTHER MATTERS, ZAGLADIN EXPLAINED THAT 28 PARTIES HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN ECPC PREPARATIONS, BUT 29 PARTICIPATED, CONFIDENTIAL

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BECAUSE THE DUTCH CP AT FIRST HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE UNDERTAKING AND DID NOT JOIN THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS. HE SAID THAT A LETTER OF INVITATION WAS SENT TO THE ALBANIAN CP BUT WAS NOT ACCEPTED.

7. COMMENT. THE STRUCTURE, CONTENT AND AUTHORITATIVE TONE OF THIS PROGRAM--CLEARLY PUT TOGETHER FOR A DOMESTIC AUDIENCE--STRONGLY SUGGEST IT WAS INTENDED TO COMBAT DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF THE ECPC. THE PROGRAM THUS STRENGTHENS OUR IMPRESSION (REFTEL) THAT A DIVISION OF OPINION REGARDING THE ECPC CONTINUES WITHIN THE CPSU. BOTH ZAGLADIN AND SHISHLIN GAVE ACCOMPLISHED PERFORMANCES. THE FORMER WAS SEVERAL TIMES IDENTIFIED AS "PROFESSOR AND FIRST DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE CC'S FOREIGN DEPARTMENT"; THE LATTER AS "LEADER OF A GROUP OF CONSULTANTS TO A CC DEPARTMENT".

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